

Cat's Cradle Rescue

Thank you for considering a rescue cat! Please consider the following before adoption:

Your household ...

Members: How many humans? ... Ages? Other pets? Health concerns/allergies?
Children ... Ages? Temperament? Previous cat/pet experience?
Their supervision when with pets?
Everyone in agreement on adoption/addition to the household?
Expected changes/adjustments?

Physical layout: Square footage? Stairs? Two story? Tri-level?
Rent or Own? Pet deposits? Pet rent? Cat/pet door?
Room to isolate (if needed) for adjustment, illness or treatment?
Space for everyone? Several vertical places/options for all cats?
Kitten/cat proofing? Room for new & current pets?
Safety for everyone – humans & animals?

Cat's/Kitten's Personalities & Needs ...

Kittens grow-up to be cats who can live 15, 20 or more years ... provisions for them & their care if something happens to you?

How many cats/pets are you wanting? Your expectations from cat guardianship?

Active & energetic vs "couch potato? Somewhere in between?

Past experience with cats/pets?

Lap cat? Cuddly? Bed sleeper? Or just "hanging out" type? Vocal?

Buddy for current pet? Or specific human?

Ages? (kittens are more "needy" & require more attention, plus personalities are not fully formed). Usually small kittens do better with a litter-mate, age-mate or other cat for companionship.

Are you wanting a indoor only cat or one that can handle some outdoor time?

City vs residential vs suburbs?

Special needs animal: Physical handicap? Slow adjuster or reserved cat?

... one liking quiet home? One wanting to be the "only cat?"

No cat or kitten is perfect ...they are a wonderful work-in-progress & ever changing ...

If there are litter box or other issues, please consider an underlying medical condition & check with your veterinarian ...

The cat/kitten you are considering is a "foster" cat & lives in the home of their foster parents until adoption. Foster parents are a invaluable resource for information on their foster animals. Please ask them questions. Unfortunately, there are often gaps in a animal's history because many are strays, or abandoned, but you will get all the information/records from the time they entered our system.

Declawing: This is amputation of the cat's toes – a huge handicap. It is major surgery (elective) & can drastically change the cat's personality besides taking away a method of defense ... resulting in a more temperamental cat who will probably bite & use their mouth more to compensate. Also, it is a painful, life-long condition. We do accept, & have at times, previously declawed cats who need to be indoors only. **Options:** regular nail clipping; scratching posts/scratchers or cat furniture (use cat nip to attract the cats); "sticky paws" (double sided tape made for furniture); soft claws; spray repellent....

Indoor cats live longer & generally are healthier because they are not subject to the stress, illness, & dangers of the outside. However, some cats have enough outdoor experience that it may be a disservice to them to completely keep them inside unless they "agree" & adjust. Supervision while outside a good choice ... harness/leash training may be an option, too.

Miscellaneous things:

- 1.** Adoption fees are just the beginning for cat-related expenses ... vet care, vaccines, food, litter & litter boxes, cat furniture & scratching posts, toys these can add up quickly.
- 2.** A good quality food can more than pay for itself with lower vet bills & better cat/kitten health. Generally, the first several ingredients should be meat (poultry best, fish ok) ... with grains (wheat, corn, soy) absent or way down the list. Meat by-products are questionable, but chicken, turkey, or fish meal are fine & are almost the quality of real poultry/fish/meat ...
- 3.** Cats are carnivores & need a high protein diet lower in carbohydrates. (Brown rice, rice, barley, & some vegetable meal can good types of carbohydrates when in lower amounts). There are many good quality brands being sold ... labels can give valuable information.
- 4.** Canned food is a good source of moisture & can be used as a treat for adult cats. It can be a comfort food for the cat & help keep them hydrated when ill. Dry food should be left out all the time, with the wet food given during the day ... times & amounts depending upon the age of the cat/kitten. You may need to try different brands to find one your cat likes. It is best not to abruptly change food on the cat (especially young kittens & senior cats), but slowly introduce a new type to avoid vomiting, diarrhea or other problems.
- 5.** Litter: A clumping, unscented litter usually works best for most cats. Again, they probably will tell you their preference (there are many good brands available) & cleaning often will help the comfort of everyone. Totally exchanging the litter also is a good strategy when it becomes too old. Boxes should be out of the way, but not so far out of the way that the cat will not use them ... one per cat, plus at least one on each level of the home. Most cats will use uncovered or covered (hint: leave off the flapping door that usually comes with the box).

Most of all, please be patient! You know you are offering a good home ... the cat just needs to be convinced of this & get use to their new surroundings ... all of which takes time, The challenges will get easier with good listening, observing, & commitment to being your cat's guardian.